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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/911,053

07/23/2001

Pradeep K. Bansal

1999-0215

3729

7590

05/19/2006

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EXAMINER

ZURITA, JAMES H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,053

Applicant(s)

BANSAL ET AL.

Examiner

James H. Zurita

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 50-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Prosecution History

This Prosecution History is presented to clarify the record.

On 23 July 2001, applicant filed the instant application. There are no claims to priority.

On 10 September 2001, applicant filed a preliminary amendment, amending claims 23 and 46.

On 27 September 2004, the Examiner issued an Election Requirement.

On 24 November 2004, applicant elected Invention I, claims 1-16.

On 7 March 2005, the Examiner issued a non-final rejection of claims 1-16 as anticipated by Li.

On 20 June 2005, applicant filed a response to the Office Action.

On 22 November 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 as unpatentable over Lin.

On 23 January 2006, applicant filed an after-final request for reconsideration.

On 15 February 2006, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action.

On 7 March 2006, applicant requested Continued Examination and filed an amendment.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7 March 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

On 7 March 2006, applicant cancelled claims 1-16 and added claims 50-65.

Claims 17-65 are pending, of which claims 17-49 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 50-65 will be examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7 March 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 50-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss (PG-PUB 2002/0178364 A1).

As per claim 50, Weiss discloses method(s) for processing an order placed by an address owner to a merchant for merchandise, comprising the steps of: **receiving** from the merchant a query to an online address directory the query containing an address owner ID (see, for example, at least Fig. 10, reference 1002) **determining** from the address directory, a shipping address of the address owner that is effective on the delivery date (see, for example, at least Fig. 11 and related description, as in paragraphs 0088-0092); and **transmitting** to the merchant, information for printing a coded shipping label (see, for example, reference 1014, Fig. 10, paragraph 0087), the shipping label readable by a shipper (see, for example, paragraph 0087, Fig. 11, steps 1106 and 1110), the label containing the address of the address owner valid on the delivery date (see, for example, references to date duration during which an address is valid, as in paragraph 0088).

Weiss discloses validating addresses to which a item is mailed and the duration in which the addresses will remain valid (paragraph 0088). Weiss also discloses that an address may change temporarily, permanently or frequently, as in paragraph 0088. Weiss also discloses that an owner may have parcels shipped to permanent and temporary addresses, current locations, known schedules, as in paragraph 0092:

...The person can also automatically provide for address changes where the person moves according to a known schedule. Thus, deliveries to be made on a weekday could be directed to one address and deliveries on a weekend to another address; or deliveries during winter months to one address and during summer months to a different address.

Weiss **does not** specifically disclose the each entry includes a date range during which said address is effective. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

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the art at the time the invention was made to extend Weiss to disclose other fields in an address owner's entry, such as date range. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to extend Weiss to disclose other fields in an address owner's entry, such as date range, for the obvious reason that winter months have a beginning date and an ending date, while summer months have different start and end dates.

Weiss **does not** specifically disclose that the merchant's query includes a shipping delivery date. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include, in a merchant's query, a shipping delivery date. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to include, in a merchant's query, a shipping delivery date, for the obvious reason that if a merchant wishes to ship an item during the winter, the merchant would need to specify that he intends to ship the item on specific dates. Otherwise, the merchandise would arrive at an owner's other address, possibly creating an irate customer.

As per claim 51, Weiss discloses the use of the Internet and the use of links to access different parts of the system. Weiss **does not** specifically disclose that receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory comprises receiving a first hyperlink to a first hyperlinked page in the directory. Official Notice is taken that the use of hyperlinks on the Internet was old and well known at the time of applicant's invention, and well within the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Weiss and knowledge of one of ordinary skill to disclose receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory comprises receiving a first hyperlink to a first hyperlinked page in the directory.

O ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to combine Weiss and knowledge of one of ordinary skill to disclose receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory comprises receiving a first hyperlink to a first hyperlinked page in the directory for the obvious reason that hyperlinks permit easy access to otherwise confusing addresses on the Internet.

As per claim 52, Weiss does not specifically disclose that the **query** from the merchant further contains a first key evidencing the address owner's permission to query the directory. See, for example, at least Fig. 10, item 1002.

As per claim 53, Weiss discloses that the **shipping label** is not readable by the merchant. See, for example, Fig. 11, reference 1104.

As per claim 54, Weiss discloses **receiving** from the shipper a query containing an identifier (Fig. 11, item 1106, for example); and **transmitting** to the shipper a second key for decoding the shipping label to obtain the shipping address for the address owner on the delivery date. See, for example, Fig. 11, items 1108 and 1110.

As per claim 55, Weiss discloses the use of the Internet and the use of links to access different parts of the system. Weiss does not specifically that the second key is a second hyperlink to a second hyperlinked page in the online address directory. Official

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Notice is taken that the use of hyperlinks on the Internet was old and well known at the time of applicant's invention, and well within the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to extend Weiss to disclose that second key is a second hyperlink to a second hyperlinked page in the online address directory.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to extend Weiss to disclose that second key is a second hyperlink to a second hyperlinked page in the online address directory for the obvious reason that hyperlinks permit easy access to otherwise confusing addresses on the Internet.

As per claim 56, Weiss discloses the steps of: **transmitting a first key** to the merchant to include in the query (Fig. 10, item 1002 and related text, for example) and **transmitting a second key to** the shipper for decoding the shipping label (as in Fig. 11, item 1106, for example).

As per claim 57, Weiss discloses the steps of by the merchant, **affixing the label** to the merchandise and forwarding the merchandise to the shipper (see, for example, at least Fig. 10, reference 1016 and related text); and by the shipper, **decoding the shipping label** to obtain said shipping address for said address owner on said date of delivery (See, for example, at least Fig. 11 and references 1108 and 1110).

Claim 58 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 50.

Claim 59 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 51.

Claim 60 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 52.

Claim 61 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 53.

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Claim 62 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 54.

Claim 63 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 55.

Claim 64 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 56.

Claim 65 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 57.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H. Zurita whose telephone number is 571-272-6766. The examiner can normally be reached on 8a-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James Zurita
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3625
14 May 2006

James Zurita
Patent Examiner
Art 3625